

| A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER IPC 7 F16J15/32 | | |
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| According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC | | |
| B. FIELDS SEARCHED Minimum documentation searched - (classification system followed by classification symbols) IPC 7 F16J | | |
| Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched | | |
| Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used) EPO-Internal | | |
| C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT | | |
| Category * | Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages | Relevant to claim No. |
| X | US 5 066 024 A (HAGG DIETER ET AL) 19 November 1991 (1991-11-19) column 1, line 29 - line 33 column 1, line 65 - column 2, line 2 column 2, line 50 - column 3, line 13 figures 1-3 | 1-11 |
| X | DE 39 07 614 A (MOTOREN TURBINEN UNION) 13 September 1990 (1990-09-13) figure 1 column 2, line 22 - line 50 | 1-11 |
| X | WO 99 06673 A (SEALOL) 11 February 1999 (1999-02-11) figures 11,15 page 6, line 30 - page 7, line 1 page 7, line 19 - line 21 | 1,2,8-11 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Patent family members are listed in annex. | | |
| * Special categories of cited documents : "A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance "E" earlier document but published on or after the international filing date "L" document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified) "O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means "P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed "T" later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention "X" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone "Y" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art. "Z" document member of the same patent family | | |
| Date of the actual completion of the international search 17 February 2004 | | Date of mailing of the international search report 02/03/2004 |
| Name and mailing address of the ISA European Patent Office, P.B. 5818 Patentlaan 2 NL - 2280 HV Rijswijk Tel. (+31-70) 340-2040, Tx. 31 651 epo nl, Fax: (+31-70) 340-3016 | | Authorized officer TERRIER D/L CHA., J |

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Information on patent family members

International Application No

PCT/EP 03/13437

| Patent document cited in search report | | Publication date | Patent family member(s) | Publication date |
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| | | | DE 3907614 A1 | 13-09-1990 |
| | | | FR 2626646 A1 | 04-08-1989 |
| | | | GB 2214998 A ,B | 13-09-1989 |
| | | | IT 1228063 B | 28-05-1991 |
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| WO 9906673 | A | 11-02-1999 | WO 9906673 A1 | 11-02-1999 |

To Point V

Reasoned statement with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement.

1 With regard to Claim 1:

- 1.1 Claim 1 satisfies the requirements of Article 33(2) to 33(4) PCT in terms of novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability.
- 1.2 Since none of the publications cited in the search report or assessed in the description introduction specifies the features of the independent claim 1 in their entirety, the subject of claim 1 is novel.
- 1.3 The publications mentioned in the search report do not give a person skilled in the art any suggestion, in the case of a brush seal according to the preamble of the main claim 1, according to US-A-5,066,024, of executing the fixing according to the characterizing part of claim 1. The measure suitable for producing a multiple brush ring carrier, the second brush ring carrier being fixed to the first brush ring carrier by means of a snap connection (in particular, an unreleasable snap connection) arises from a step which does not constitute a conclusive development of the cited prior art. The brush seal according to claim 1 is therefore based on inventive activity.
- 1.4 The subject of claim 1 can be produced and can be used and is therefore also deemed to be commercially applicable.

2 With regard to claims 2-11:

- 2.1 Claims 2-11 are dependent on claim 1 and consequently likewise fulfill the requirements of the PCT in terms of novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability according to Articles 33(2) to (4) PCT.